



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2011 Biennium

<b>Bill #</b>	HB0481	<b>Title:</b>	Work comp coverage for volunteer public safety workers
<b>Primary Sponsor:</b>	Hendrick, Gordon R	<b>Status:</b>	As Introduced

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact     | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

### FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2010 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2011 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2012 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2013 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund		-----Cannot be Reasonably Determined-----		
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund		-----Cannot be Reasonably Determined-----		
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>				

**Description of fiscal impact:** The fiscal impact cannot be quantified. The bill will provide workers' compensation insurance coverage for volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMT's) if elected by their employer. The bill will also provide for unemployed volunteer firefighters; unemployed volunteer EMT's; and for self employed sole proprietors or partners who have elected not to be covered under a workers' compensation policy, to receive workers' compensation benefit payments at the rate of 66 2/3 of the states average weekly wage. The premium calculation remains unchanged though the benefits have increased.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions

#### **Montana State Fund**

1. If elected by the employer, volunteer firefighters are provided coverage under the workers' compensation act. Current coverage, if eligible based on an injury while providing services as a volunteer firefighter, is for medical expenses, wage loss benefits based on volunteer hours, and any concurrent wages.
2. Employers of volunteer EMT's will be able to make a similar election.
3. Premium is based on the average weekly wage, divided by 40 hours, and times no more that 60 volunteer hours per week.

4. The bill will provide for unemployed volunteers firefighters, unemployed volunteer EMT's, and for self employed sole proprietors or partners, who have elected not to be covered under a workers' compensation policy, to receive workers' compensation benefit payments at the rate of 66 2/3 of the states average weekly wage. Premium calculation remains unchanged though the benefits have increased.
5. Manual rates for affected job classifications will reflect the additional level of benefits over time.

**Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures:**

**Montana State Fund**

1. Manual rates for volunteer firefighter codes will increase over time.

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*Sponsor's Initials*

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*Date*

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*Budget Director's Initials*

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*Date*